

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
JOINT ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

July 28, 2021

1:01 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Matt Claman, Co-Chair
Senator Mike Shower, Co-Chair
Representative David Nelson
Representative Ivy Spohnholz
Representative Geran Tarr
Senator Roger Holland
Senator Scott Kawasaki (via teleconference)
Senator Lora Reinbold

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Chris Tuck
Senator Joshua Revak

PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT

Colonel Tim Jones, retired - Fairbanks (via teleconference)
Brigadier General Julio "Randy" Banez, retired - Fairbanks (via teleconference)
Colonel Robert Doehl, retired - Anchorage
Colonel George Vakalis, retired - Anchorage

PUBLIC MEMBERS ABSENT

Nelson N. Angapak, Sr. - Anchorage
Commodore James Chase, retired - Anchorage

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

DECORATION OF HONOR

- HEARD

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

- HEARD

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

No previous action to record

WITNESS REGISTER

EMMA POTTER, Staff
Representative Matt Claman
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Delivered a PowerPoint on the Decoration of Honor medallions.

KIM SKIPPER, Staff
Representative David Nelson
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Delivered a PowerPoint on the Decoration of Honor medallions.

ACTION NARRATIVE

1:01:13 PM

CO-CHAIR MATT CLAMAN called the Joint Armed Services Committee (JASC) meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Holland, Kawasaki (via teleconference), Reinbold and Co-Chair Shower; and Representatives Tarr, Nelson and Co-Chair Claman. Public members present were Brigadier General Julio "Randy" Banez, retired (via teleconference), Colonel Tim Jones, retired (via teleconference), Colonel Robert Doehl, retired and Colonel George Vakalis, retired. Representative Spohnholz arrived shortly thereafter.

MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

1:03:13 PM

CO-CHAIR CLAMAN asked members to give a brief introduction, beginning with the public members.

1:03:26 PM

COLONEL DOEHL said he serves as a JASC public member recommended by the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA), currently serving as the MOA Building Official Development Services Director and temporarily as the Mass Care Branch Director. He explained that the MOA oversees the mass care effort at the Sullivan Arena and other locations in Anchorage. He retired as a Colonel with the Air National Guard after 18 years of service in the U.S. Army and 14 years of service in the U.S. Air Force. He said he looks forward to learning from other JASC members.

1:04:02 PM

COLONEL VAKALIS said he serves as a JASC public member recommended by the Municipality of Anchorage. He came to Alaska while serving in the U.S. Army, retiring as a full colonel after serving two tours of duty in Alaska. He stated that he previously served as the MOA Municipal Manager for 12 years and as an Assistant Superintendent for the Anchorage School District for nine years. He said his company, Vakalis & Associates, LLC provides consulting services to the school district.

1:04:35 PM

BRIGADIER GENERAL "Randy" BANEZ stated that he works as a civilian for a defense logistics agency on JBER. He began his active duty military service as a Field Artillery Officer [deployed to Turkey, Bahrain, and Kuwait]. He came to Alaska in 1992 to serve at JBER [commanding from company to brigade level, including 197th Support Battalion, the 207th Infantry Group and the Alaska Army National Guard, retiring in 2012]. He was recommended by the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (DMVA) to serve as a civilian public member of JASC.

1:05:12 PM

COLONEL JONES said he serves as a JASC public member from Fairbanks. He came to Fairbanks with the U.S. Army in 2008, serving his last assignment as Garrison Commander at Fort Wainwright. He said he retired as colonel after 27 years of service.

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CO-CHAIR CLAMAN asked the legislative committee members to introduce themselves.

1:05:58 PM

REPRESENTATIVE SPOHNHOLZ said this will be her third year serving as a JASC member representing House District 16, which is adjacent to JBER. She said she is the daughter and daughter-in-law of military veterans. She expressed her interest in serving on the committee.

1:06:24 PM

REPRESENTATIVE NELSON remarked that he was pleased that the committee has so much U.S. Army representation, especially from civilians. He said he serves as a JASC member representing House District 15, which includes Northeast Anchorage and the Air Force portion of JBER. He said he currently serves as a first lieutenant in the Alaska Army National Guard.

1:07:01 PM

SENATOR HOLLAND said he is a JASC member representing Senate District N. He said he joined the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves in 1991. During his service, he was deployed to Bahrain, Kuwait and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

1:07:34 PM

REPRESENTATIVE TARR said she serves as a JASC member representing House District 19, which includes Mountain View, Russian Jack and Airport Heights. She stated that her district is adjacent to JBER. She has worked with JBER on a number of issues, including the runway relocation, housing and neighborhood safety issues. She said she appreciates the military members' participation in the community council meetings to maintain strong relationships. She stated that she previously served as co-chair of JASC. She related that a number of her family members served in the military. She thanked JASC members who have military service. She thanked the public members for their ongoing participation. She stated that the legislature previously cosponsored the Alaska Defense Forum, which initially was held pre-COVID-19. The next forum will be held in Fairbanks on August 4, 2021.

1:08:31 PM

SENATOR REINBOLD said her family moved to Alaska in the 1960s when her father served as Site Manager for the Clear Air Force Station, which is now Clear Space Force Station. She said she serves as a JASC member representing Eagle River, which includes a large portion of JBER in Senate District G. She recently attended the change of command ceremony for Major General Brian Eifler, U.S. Army Alaska. She stated that she has served on the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee for most of her nine years serving in the legislature and as co-chair of JASC.

1:09:31 PM

CO-CHAIR SHOWER said he serves as a JASC member representing Senate District E, including the north side of the Mat-Su Borough to Valdez, Glennallen and Delta Junction. He stated that his district includes the missile defense complex at Fort Greely and training facilities at Fort Wainwright. He said he served in the U.S. Air Force from 1986 to 2010. He characterized JASC as an important committee providing the legislature with updates on the military. Alaska has a strong military presence including its active and non-active members. The interest in the Arctic continues to increase due to its deep water ports and strategic location, he said.

[1:10:47 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR CLAMAN said he serves as a JASC member representing House District 21. He stated that many of his family members served in the military although he did not. He stated that he plays taps at numerous veterans' funerals. He agreed with the previous comments that this is an important committee to keep informed on military activities in Alaska. He noted the presence of Kim Skipper who has assisted the committee.

Decoration of Honor

[1:11:52 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR CLAMAN announced the consideration of the Decoration of Honor. He directed attention to the fact sheet in members' packets.

CO-CHAIR CLAMAN asked Senator Kawasaki, participating via teleconference to introduce himself.

[1:12:12 PM](#)

SENATOR KAWASAKI said he is a JASC member representing Senate District J, representing the City of Fairbanks, adjacent to Fort Wainwright. He acknowledged that the state has a huge veteran and active duty military population. He stated that he has served on JASC for a number of years, including as co-chair in 2016.

[1:12:49 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR CLAMAN returned to the Decoration of Honor fact sheet. He stated that his staff would provide a short PowerPoint on the Decoration of Honor.

[1:13:42 PM](#)

EMMA POTTER, staff, Representative Matt Claman, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, reviewed the fact sheet on slide 1. She explained that the Decoration of Honor was an award given to fallen service members. It was created in 2007 by House Bill 244, which gave JASC the responsibility to make arrangements for the design of the Alaska Decoration of Honor and to award these medallions to the next of kin. The committee is here today to discuss storage of the medallions, she said.

[1:14:14 PM](#)

KIM SKIPPER, staff, Representative David Nelson, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, explained that former Representative Nancy Dahlstrom served as co-chair of the

committee when the Decoration of Honor was created. Some of these honorees served in the Korean War. Each Decoration of Honor medallion is engraved with the fallen service member's name. These members were either Alaska residents or were assigned to a duty station in Alaska at the time of their deaths. The legislature made Decoration of Honor medallions for every eligible member in 2009 and held a Decoration of Honor ceremony.

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MS. SKIPPER reviewed slide 3, which consisted of a table of legislative resolutions that awarded the Alaska Decorations of Honor and the number of awards issued. She reviewed the status of the 245 Decoration of Honor medallions, of which approximately 122 were being held in storage. She paraphrased the Alaska Decoration of Honor awards by year, which read as follows:

In 2008, Senate Concurrent Resolution 18 awarded 171 fallen service members of the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the 1991 Gulf Wars, the U.S. War in Afghanistan and the 2003 Iraq War the Decoration of Honor.

[Due to the length of the resolution listing the fallen service members' names, a link to the resolution can be found at the following: <http://www.akleg.gov/PDF/25/Bills/SCR018B.PDF>].

1:16:18 PM

MS. SKIPPER added that 67 of the 171 Decoration of Honor medallions engraved with the fallen service members' names were not distributed and remain in storage. She explained that some families of the Vietnam War fallen service members refused the Decoration of Honor because of anti-war sentiment, that some spouses did not want the reminder of their lost husband or son and some next of kin of the fallen service members were not located. She paraphrased the following:

In 2009, House Concurrent Resolution 7 awarded six fallen service members the Alaska Decoration of Honor, as follows: Donald V. Clark, Christian P. Humphreys, Cody J. Eggleston, Heath K. Pickard, Jason A. Karella, and Daniel R. Sexton.

MS. SKIPPER said all six medallions were distributed.

1:16:50 PM

MS. SKIPPER continued to paraphrase the Decoration of Honor recipients, which read:

In 2011, House Concurrent Resolution 7 awarded 30 fallen service members the Alaska Decoration of Honor, as follows: Daniel L. Hansen, Michael Boyd Alleman, Michael Lee Mayne, Zachary Ray Nordmeyer, Patrick A. Devoe II, Timothy Bowles, Jarrett P. Griemel, Brian N. Bradshaw, Justin Aaron Casillas, Aaron Eli Fairbairn, Nicolas Hugh Joseph Gideon, Clayton Patrick Bowen, Morris Lewis Walker, Kurt Robert Curtiss, Darryn D. Andrews, Michael Chance Murphrey, Thomas Franklyn Lyons, Zachary Taylor Myers, Shannon Michael Smith, Matthew Michael Martinek, Michael Shane Cote, Jr., Gregory M.W. Fleury, Julian Lee Berisford, Jason Omar Bradley Hickman, Joel D. Clarkson, James L. Miller, Christopher Eastman, Jaysine Petree, William B. Dawson, and Renee Sinkler.

[1:16:54 PM](#)

MS. SKIPPER informed members that none of these medallions were distributed so all 30 medallions were in storage.

MS. SKIPPER explained that the process to identify and locate the next of kin was time consuming and sometimes problematic. The list from the U.S. Army designates the next of kin, which is often the mother or wife, she said. However, some fallen service members were only 21-years-old or younger at the time of their deaths. Some members married young but their wives may have left the state and no longer want the reminder. Some next of kin reside in the Lower 48 or in other countries, making it more difficult to locate them.

[1:17:53 PM](#)

MS. SKIPPER continued to identify the Decoration of Honor recipients, which read as follows:

In 2012, Senate Concurrent Resolution 20 awarded 25 fallen service members the Alaska Decoration of Honor, as follows: Charles E. Ridgley, Jr., David L. Brodeur, Lamarol J. Tucker, Cheizray Enrolled SCR 20 -2- Pressley, Bradley L. Melton, Jeffery C. S. Sherer, Robert L. Voakes, Jr., Devin A. Snyder, Christopher R. Bell, Joshua D. Powell, Ryan J. Larson, Kenneth B. Elwell, Tyler M. Springmann, Douglas L. Cordo, Brandon S. Mullins, Douglas J. Green, Christophe J. Marquis, Brett E. Wood, Rodolfo Rodriguez, Jr., Timothy D.

Sayne, Ryan J. Cook, Calvin M. Pereda, Matthew C. Colin, James R. Burnett, and Johnathan B. McCain.

MS. SKIPPER informed members that none of these medallions were distributed and all were in storage.

1:18:00 PM

MS. SKIPPER said she took over the project in 2013. At the time, she served as staff to then Representative Saddler. She continued to identify the Decoration of Honor recipients, which read as follows:

In 2013, House Concurrent Resolution 5 awarded 9 fallen service members the Alaska Decoration of Honor, as follows: Dustin P. Napier, Jeffrey L. White, Jr., Thomas K. Fogarty, Brian L. Walker, Richard L. McNulty, Vincent J. Ellis, Nathan T. Davis, Carl E. Hammar, and Ethan J. Martin.

MS. SKIPPER stated that she was able to locate all of the next of kin and distribute these awards.

1:18:20 PM

MS. SKIPPER continued to identify the Decoration of Honor recipients, which read as follows:

In 2018, Senate Concurrent Resolution 14 awarded 3 fallen service members the Alaska Decoration of Honor, as follows: David T. Brabander, Hansen B. Kirkpatrick, and Jacob M. Sim.

MS. SKIPPER commented that she picked up these medallions at the Alaska Mint yesterday. She related that she has next of kin contacts for two of the fallen service members but needs to locate the third fallen service member's wife or next of kin.

1:18:51 PM

MS. SKIPPER continued to identify the Decoration of Honor recipients, which read as follows:

In 2020, Senate Concurrent Resolution 11 awarded one fallen service member the Alaska Decoration of Honor to Gabriel David Conde.

MS. SKIPPER said she worked for Senator Revak last year. She stated that she just picked up the Decoration of Honor medal for Mr. Conde who was killed in action in 2018.

1:19:20 PM

MS. SKIPPER stated that the committee could consider what to do with the approximate 122 Decoration of Honor medallions being held in storage at the Anchorage Legislative Information Office (LIO). She emphasized the importance of distributing or displaying the Decoration of Honor medallions of the fallen service members.

MS. SKIPPER related that in 2015, LIO staff received a call from a Gold Star family member who discovered via a Google search that her son was awarded the Decoration of Honor. LIO staff provided contact information so she was able to distribute the Decoration of Honor medallion to the mother. Through that Gold Star Family connection, she was also able to trace the next of kin of a second fallen service member, she said.

1:21:01 PM

MS. SKIPPER noted that the state's original order from the Alaska Mint to produce the medallions included minting additional blank medallions. She stated that a number of boxes of the unengraved and unassembled medallions were also in storage at the Anchorage LIO.

1:21:28 PM

CO-CHAIR CLAMAN asked how many unengraved and unassembled medallions were also in storage.

MS. SKIPPER said was unsure but offered to check and report back to the committee.

1:21:47 PM

REPRESENTATIVE SPOHNHOLZ asked whether any effort was made to track down those awarded the Decoration of Honor from 2011 and 2012 since none of the 30 and 25 medallions, respectively, were distributed.

MS. SKIPPER related her understanding that former Representative Dahlstrom's staff made some effort to do so. She pointed out that it was sometimes difficult to obtain a list of next of kin for the fallen service members. Since the medallions were legislative honors and not military medals, the military could not release the information, she said. She offered to check on the status and report back to the committee.

1:22:57 PM

REPRESENTATIVE NELSON asked if any effort was made to contact museums about housing the medallions.

MS. SKIPPER answered no. She explained that she was awaiting further direction from the committee on how to handle the Decoration of Honor medallions still in storage. She recalled an inquiry by Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (DMVA) on the medallions. She wondered if DMVA would be an appropriate agency to display them.

[1:24:15 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE NELSON suggested that the Decoration of Honor medallions still in possession could be loaned to museums to honor these fallen soldiers.

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SENATOR SHOWER agreed that displaying the medallions would be better than storing them. He suggested that the committee should consider any associated costs for storage or display, since the state does not have a mechanism to receive donations from organizations, such as veterans' organizations to cover any costs.

[1:26:10 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR CLAMAN noted that about a third of the families of the fallen service members were veterans of the Korean War or Vietnam War. These members were awarded the Decoration of Honor in Senate Concurrent Resolution 18 but their next of kin did not claim the medallions. At this point, it seems unlikely that their next of kin would claim their medallions, he said. He suggested that the legislature should not continue to store the medals.

[1:26:48 PM](#)

MS. SKIPPER remarked that some next of kin contacts have not been made. She related that she conducted Google searches as time permitted, but her time was limited. She said she has compiled a list, which is on a memory stick that she intends to provide to the library to preserve the information.

[1:28:55 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR SHOWER suggested that perhaps a veteran's organization could take responsibility for the Decoration of Honor medallions for those fallen service members whose next of kin declined to accept the awards.

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MS. SKIPPER recalled seeing a display of veterans' medals in a hall at the California State Capitol. She suggested that members might want to consider a similar display at the Alaska State Capitol.

1:30:28 PM

REPRESENTATIVE TARR said she worked with Ms. Skipper on the Decoration of Honor medallions when she was co-chair of JASC. She hoped that if the legislature were to display the unclaimed Decoration of Honor medallions, that this display would include the names of all fallen service members, even those recipients whose next of kin received their Decorations of Honor so all would be honored.

MS. SKIPPER agreed that was important. She related that making calls to parents was an emotional experience for her and for the parents or spouse because the pain never goes away.

1:32:21 PM

SENATOR REINBOLD asked whether the task to locate next of kin for the 122 Decoration of Honor medallions still in possession could be divided up among staff volunteers.

CO-CHAIR SHOWER agreed that a plaque should list everyone. He suggested using several veteran's organizations to help locate next of kin.

1:33:50 PM

MS. SKIPPER noted that only one Decoration of Honor medallion was issued per fallen service member. Sometimes the parents of the fallen service member are divorced so she receives requests for another medallion from the parents who did not receive them. She reported that under former Speaker Pete Kott, the legislature created a line of duty coin. Those coins were minted and distributed to the next of kin of fallen Alaska State Troopers or police officers. She said these coins are beautiful and are housed in a nice wooden box but are not engraved. She suggested that JASC might consider distributing these coins when family members request duplicate medallions.

1:36:33 PM

CO-CHAIR CLAMAN acknowledged that it was a challenge to decide what to do with the Decoration of Honor medallions in storage. He said it seemed as though the legislature has enough medallions. He suggested one option might be to include the fallen service member names on a veterans' memorial. He emphasized that it was important not to exclude anyone. He

commented that the size of the Decoration of Honor medallions might make it difficult to find sufficient space in the Capitol. He asked Co-Chair Shower if he knew of a veterans' organization that might be interested in assisting the committee.

SENATOR SHOWER offered to reach out to a veterans' organization and report back at next meeting.

1:38:12 PM

CO-CHAIR CLAMAN stated he would keep this item on the agenda. He acknowledged the importance of honoring the fallen service members. He surmised that the last thing members would want was to keep the awarded Decoration of Honor medallions in storage.

SENATOR SHOWER informed members that U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan is currently working on funding for an Arctic Warfare Center, which is still a few years in the offing. He suggested that building might be a perfect place to display the Decoration of Honor medallions. He anticipated the building would have adequate space and it is service oriented. He offered to check with U.S. Senator Sullivan's office and report back to the committee.

1:39:38 PM

REPRESENTATIVE TARR recalled that an annual report for JASC would need to be prepared. One requirement included in the report was to review the enabling statute and justify the necessity for the committee. She suggested the committee might wish to consider including this project in its recommendations. She recalled that previously JASC had a more substantial budget, including additional staff assigned to handle projects such as identifying the Decoration of Honor recipients. However, over time committee staffing changed, she said. She noted that it can take staff several days to locate next of kin, make calls and attempt to deliver the Decoration of Honor medallions. She suggested that this project could be included in the long-term plan and recommendations.

1:41:05 PM

CO-CHAIR CLAMAN acknowledged that the report was due in January 2021, before the next legislative session. He related that one frustration was that the adjutant general is required to report to the committee in December but that was not always consistently done, which could make the committee's work more difficult.

MS. SKIPPER explained that JASC reports were due in an "off year" so the timeframe does not correspond to the end of a legislature. She suggested the committee could consider a statutory change to address this. She acknowledged she was not familiar with the rationale for the timing of the report. However, the report consists of the committee work for 2020 and 2021, which is due at the beginning of the next legislative session. Thus, it was possible that the co-chair serving in year one would not be reelected to serve in year two. If so, it could result in the committee cobbling together the report.

[1:42:56 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR CLAMAN related his understanding that the logic could be that having the report due on the in-between year would allow the committee additional time to better understand the requirements. He acknowledged that having the committee report due at the beginning of a new legislative session might mean some members may not serve. Thus, after the legislature was organized and the session started, new members would need to prepare the report. He acknowledged that at some level, there were challenges with each scenario. He said one solution might be to require that an annual report be submitted.

[1:43:47 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE SPOHNHOLZ suggested that the committee could require the report due by December 31, which would fall at the end of the two-year legislature. She said she appreciated Ms. Skipper's feedback on how to modernize the requirement by moving the deadline up one month to guarantee that the report was in hand in time for the new legislature.

[1:44:42 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR CLAMAN stated he would keep this item on the next agenda.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

[1:45:03 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR CLAMAN announced the consideration of the organizational meeting. He reviewed the upcoming meetings and tours. He said the committee scheduled a tour of the Joint Armed Services Headquarters at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) on August 25, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

CO-CHAIR CLAMAN further stated that Major General Torrence Saxe, Adjutant General, Alaska Army National Guard suggested that the committee consider touring operations in other parts of the

state, including the Anchorage Joint Forces Headquarters and offices in Bethel, Kodiak, Fairbanks and Southeast Alaska. He suggested that the committee should make sure this was consistent with ongoing operations and that the committee would not incur any additional cost. He offered to provide members with more details in the next few weeks.

[1:46:16 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE TARR asked whether members would return to Anchorage for the JBER tour if members were in Juneau for special session.

CO-CHAIR CLAMAN suggested that members should await more information and stay flexible given the uncertainty surrounding the third special legislative session, in terms of when it is convened and for how long. He said it was quite possible the legislature would not be in special session or that the special session might be delayed. He recalled that at times during session he has been in Anchorage so if some members were in Anchorage they could attend.

[1:48:02 PM](#)

SENATOR SHOWER, noting it was not yet formally announced, related his understanding based on comments made at the time of the Comprehensive Fiscal Plan Working Group meetings, it was likely that the governor would allow members to convene on August 16, 2021. He suggested that members and staff could take Alaska Army National Guard flights if the legislature were to coordinate tours with military operational training. Since the committee does not have funding, this was one way for members to travel and tour infrastructure facilities without incurring additional costs.

[1:50:08 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR CLAMAN indicated that he was receptive to legislative travel on planned training flights since the training would occur anyway.

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COLONEL VAKALIS asked whether the committee planned to have the senior members of the various service branches give an update on their roles in Arctic strategies. He offered that JASC could play a key role in Arctic projects but the committee must be informed of each service branch's role and plans.

CO-CHAIR CLAMAN answered that JASC's target plan for the fall was to have presentations by the armed forces leadership. He

remarked that it would be unlikely that all three branches would be available at the same time.

COLONEL VAKALIS suggested that perhaps the committee could have the second in command present.

[1:51:49 PM](#)

SENATOR REINBOLD echoed Colonel Vakalis's comments. She expressed concern that the legislature does not receive more information on national security issues. She suggested that the committee prioritize being briefed on national security issues. She expressed interest in knowing more about Alaska's resource development, Arctic issues the State of Hawaii's activities with Russia and China and even food security for preparedness.

[1:53:08 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR CLAMAN related that he spoke to General Saxe a few weeks ago. General Saxe was specific about the U.S. Army National Guard being one of the first responders on food emergencies during a state of emergency.

[1:53:20 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE TARR recalled that the armed service members previously recommended JASC provide six months advance notice for them to come before the committee. She recalled she started planning in August for late January to early February presentations when she served as JASC's co-chair. Advance notice would allow members, including public members, ample time to arrange for travel to Juneau, she said.

CO-CHAIR CLAMAN recalled that the House Armed Services Committee previously received presentations on strategic updates.

[1:54:15 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR SHOWER offered his view that COVID-19 caused issues this year. He agreed that ideally the committee would receive updates every year. When riots were occurring in Seattle last May, Alaska asked to have a military ship standby because Alaska is logistically challenged and it would take time to deploy a ship. He emphasized the importance of JASC's role to ensure that a plan is in place that could be communicated to Alaskans if any needs arose.

[1:56:20 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Co-Chair Claman adjourned the Joint Armed Services Committee meeting at 1:56 p.m.